



The 16th New England Design Hall of Fame

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It's sweet sixteen for the New England Design Hall of Fame! Since 2007, we've been proudly celebrating the many talented architects, interior designers, landscape designers, and other professionals responsible for New England's vibrant residential design scene.

This year's five inductees cover a broad range of talents and expertise, but they all share a passion for exceptional design and a staunch commitment to the very highest quality in all they do. We're delighted to introduce the class of 2023: architects Jim Cappuccino of Hutker Architects and Frank Shirley of Frank Shirley Architects; interior designers Paula Daher and Nicole Hogarty, both principals of their own eponymous firms; and Sea-Dar Construction, whose principals are Jean Abouhamad, Tony Salem, and John Kruse.

Please join us as we celebrate this extraordinary group of design pros and honor their considerable accomplishments. This year's gala will be held on November 9 at the Inter-Continental Boston.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Frank Shirley, Jim Cappuccino, Nicole Hogarty, Paula Daher, and Tony Salem representing Sea-Dar Construction. This year's inductees were photographed at Casa Design's Boston showroom.

Paula Daher

DAHER INTERIOR DESIGN



Necessity is the mother of invention, and no one is better at invention than a mom. Or in Paula Daher's case, perhaps reinvention is a better term. Daher, who has a degree in computer science, was working in the corporate world when her second of three children, a daughter, faced a serious illness. (Happily, that daughter is now a healthy woman.) Unable to

return to the corporate world, the budding entrepreneur transformed a skill learned at her own mother's knee, sewing, into a home business that quickly grew into the successful interior design firm she helms today.

Daher's family had just moved into a new home, so she dusted off the sewing machine to make curtains. Visiting friends admired her handiwork, and the

idea for a business was born. From curtains came a kitchen renovation in which Daher utilized the engineering skills she had learned in college. The self-taught designer read up on millwork design and visited cabinet showrooms, systematically expanding her design services. Graduate courses in interior design at Boston Architectural College rounded out the necessary tools to grow her business.

Kitchen renovations morphed into whole-house design, from renovations to new construction. "One thing led to another, and each new project was larger and more challenging," reflects the designer. Today, Daher Interior Design is a team of eight (including, most rewardingly, her own son) working on up to two dozen projects in New England and beyond



Photograph by Michael J. Lee



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—Paula Daher



at any given time. The firm specializes in millwork design and custom furniture.

As her Boston office continues to grow, Daher has plans to open a studio and flagship retail store in Kennebunk, Maine.

"It has been a very organic growth," she says, looking back on a fulfilling—and still growing—career. "I have this varied background, but all the elements have led me to running a successful business in a creative industry."

Photography by Michael J. Lee